

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 211039  
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY ARA  
APPROVED BY P - MR NEWSOM  
DDNEWSOM  
ARA/ECA (IN SUB) CRUSER  
S/S:SGOLDSMITH

-----046205 182251Z /66

O 182235Z AUG 78 ZFF6  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE  
INFO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE 0546

S E C R E T STATE 211039

NODIS  
FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (VAKY, VIRON P.)

SUBJECT: VISIT BY AMBASSADOR VAKY TO BUENOS AIRES

1. I AM DEEPLY CONCERNED BY THE DETERIORATION IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH ARGENTINA. I BELIEVE THAT WE MUST MAKE A FURTHER ATTEMPT WITH PRESIDENT VIDELA TO HALT AND, IF POSSIBLE, REVERSE THIS TREND WITHOUT AT THE SAME TIME UNDERCUTTING OUR STAND ON HUMAN RIGHTS.

2. I AM THEREFORE PROPOSING TO HAVE ASSISTANT SECRETARY VAKY VISIT BUENOS AIRES, USING THE OBJECTIVE OF AN ORIENTATION VISIT, FOR FRANK DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT VIDELA.

THE OBJECTIVES OF SUCH A CONSULTATION WOULD BE TO TRY TO  
A) ESTABLISH A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE ISSUES AND OF

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THE PROSPECTS FOR OUR LONGER TERM RELATIONS; B) STRENGTHEN OUR CONTACT WITH MODERATE ELEMENTS IN THE GOA, SUCH AS VIDELA, AND THEIR INCLINATION TO WORK MORE CLOSELY WITH US; C) DISPELL ANY POSSIBLE MISPERCEPTIONS OR MISUNDERSTANDINGS REGARDING OUR MOTIVES, INTENTIONS, AND OBJECTIVES, AND D) TRY ONCE MORE TO INDUCE SOME FORWARD MOVEMENT IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS AREA.

3. WE WOULD OF COURSE WORK OUT A TACTICAL GAME-PLAN FOR THESE TALKS. ESSENTIALLY, HOWEVER, I AM PROCEEDING ON ASSUMPTION THAT A COMBINATION OF CIRCUMSTANCES HAS LED SIGNIFICANT ELEMENTS OF ARGENTINE LEADERSHIP AND PUBLIC TO BELIEVE U.S. POLICY IS POLITICALLY MOTIVATED AGAINST ARGENTINA AND ITS LEADERSHIP. I WISH TO INDICATE OUR INTEREST IN GOOD LONG-TERM RELATIONS, DEFINE ONCE MORE THOSE SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF CURRENT ARGENTINA PRACTICES WHICH CAUSE PROBLEMS, DETERMINE WHETHER GOA PREPARED--AS THEY HAVE SO OFTEN INDICATED IN PAST--TO MOVE IN POSITIVE DIRECTIONS, AND REITERATE WHAT WE ARE PREPARED TO DO IN RESPONSE. AND I WOULD WANT TO DISPEL THE "ULTIMATUM" SENSE OF THE OCTOBER 1 DATE, MAKING CLEAR THAT OUR RELATIONSHIP SPANS FAR MORE THAN THE MILITARY EQUIPMENT AREA.

4. VAKY WOULD ALSO BE PREPARED TO EXPLORE THE QUESTION OF AN IAHRG VISIT IN AN EFFORT TO DETERMINE IF WE CAN HELP THE GOA AND THE COMMISSION REACH AGREEMENT ON THE CONDITIONS OF A VISIT. (VAKY WOULD IN ADVANCE TALK TO THE COMMISSION, INCLUDING THE PRESENT CHAIRMAN ANDRES AGUILAR, WHOM HE KNOWS WELL.) HE COULD IN ADDITION DISCUSS WITH APPROPRIATE ARGENTINE OFFICIALS THE PROPOSED BILATERAL ECONOMIC TALKS (BUENOS AIRES 6376) AND NUCLEAR RELATIONS AND COOPERATION, TO PROVIDE BOTH A HOPEFULLY ENCOURAGING BACKDROP AND DEMONSTRATE OUR DESIRE FOR CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONS.

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TIONS WITH ARGENTINA. HE COULD ALSO RANGE WIDER TO DISCUSS CONVENTIONAL ARMS RESTRAINT AND OTHER ITEMS OF MUTUAL INTEREST.

5. WHILE VAKY WOULD, I BELIEVE, HAVE TO SEE A RANGE OF OFFICIALS INCLUDING OTHER MEMBERS OF THE JUNTA, THE MAIN THRUST OF THE REPRESENTATION WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE TO VIDELA (AND POSSIBLY VIOLA) ON THE PREMISE THAT HE IS OUR BEST BET IN SECURING SOME IMPROVEMENT IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION. I WOULD ALSO WANT THE VISIT TO BE LOW-KEY WITH AS LITTLE PUBLICITY AS POSSIBLE. WE WOULD NOT ANNOUNCE IT AND IF ASKED IT WOULD BE BILLED, AS I HAVE INDICATED, AS AN ORIENTATION VISIT.

6. VAKY WOULD BE PREPARED TO MAKE THIS VISIT IN THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER 1-8. I WOULD APPRECIATE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE YOUR GENERAL VIEWS ON THIS PROPOSED CONSULTATION, ESPECIALLY YOUR COMMENTS ON THE DATE, MAIN TALKING POINTS TO COVER WITH VIDELA, THE RANGE OF TOPICS THAT VAKY MIGHT DEAL WITH IN SUCH A VISIT, AND YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO WHOM ELSE HE SHOULD SEE. I WANT PARTICULARLY TO BE ASSURED THAT VAKY WILL BE ABLE TO SEE VIDELA, AND YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO

EXPLORE CONFIDENTIALLY WITH VIDELA OR VIOLA IN WHATEVER  
FORM YOU DEEM BEST HIS WILLINGNESS TO RECEIVE VAKY.

7. PLEASE PROVIDE ALSO A SCENARIO FOR A TWO OR THREE DAY  
VISIT, IN TERMS OF MEETINGS, TOPICS AND ISSUES TO BE AD-  
DRESSED WITH EACH PRINCIPAL ARGENTINA INTERLOCUTOR. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, VISITS, AMBASSADORS, MEETINGS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, CAT-B  
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**TAGS:** OVIP, US, AR, (VAKY, VIRON P)  
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**Review Markings:**  
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